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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,087	06/12/2000	Tariq Khalidi	10015-pa	4895

7590 08/14/2003

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EXAMINER

AKERS, GEOFFREY R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/572087

Applicant(s)

Kholidi

Examiner

Ahas, 9

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/12/00
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-36 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Spenser(US Pat. No: 6,356,909) in view of Sheflott(US Pat. No: 5,802,493).
4. As per claims 1-36 Spenser teaches a web based system for managing request for proposals and bids and responses(Abstract)(Fig 1-24) as well as creating an RFP(Fig 2/201)(Fig 4), generating a response(Fig 2/203)(Fig 5) and status reports(207) and generate reports(206),maintaining question databases, analysis databases,response databases,client databases,user databases and RFP databases(Fig 3A).Spenser further teaches linking the databases(Fig 3B) and maintaining a response database(Fig 7) and a questions database(Fig 8) and generating status reports(Fig 11). Spenser also teaches options available to an RFP creator(Fig 12) and editing the RFP(Fig 15) and listing invitations to respond to RFPs(Fig 20) and viewing the RFP(Fig 23) and answering questions(Fig 24). In addition to that taught by Spenser, Sheflott further teaches a method of generating a proposal response(Abstract)(Figs 3-

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15) including qualification of the prospect(Fig 1/21) and generating proposal activity reports(Fig 1/38) and generating financials and pricing and drawing from a provider database(Fig 3/88/100) and performing attribute evaluation(Fig 6/194)(Fig 11) and providing a display(Fig 8) and utilizing search parameters as displayed(Fig 13) and displaying the attributes of a selected answer(Fig 14) as well as algorithm execution(Fig 15).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Spenser in view of Sheflott.The motivation to combine is to teach a process for competitive bidding incorporating a comprehensive reply as enunciated by Sheflott(cil 3 lines 45-55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1-36 are further rejected for failing to point out and precisely claim what applicant regards is the invention. Then independent claims are too broad to specifically claim a piece of material which is distinguishable over the art.

Conclusion


7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE NON-FINAL.**

8. Any questions concerning this communication should be addressed to the primary examiner of record, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E., who can be reached between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at 703-306-5844. If attempts to contact the primary examiner are

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unsuccessful, the primary examiner's superior, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be telephoned at (703)-308-1065.

The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft or Informal faxes to Technology Center 3600 or this Art Unit is (703)-308-3687. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-1113.



August 10, 2003

DR. GEOFFREY R. AKERS, P.E.
PRIMARY EXAMINER